



Reception Curriculum Information

Week beginning: 24th September 2018

Dear Parents

In Bird Families this week we talked about how to have a happy playtime! This included talking about playground rules, safety and kind playing together. In assembly, Mrs Harries shared the story of Mr Brave and talked about different situations in which we may show courage, from falling off a bike, to playing an instrument in front of an audience.

This week in Reception we read *Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* by Markus Motum, which is one of the books that we have been reviewing as part of the Royal Society's 'Young People's Book Prize'. We thought about what it would be like to travel to Mars on the space shuttle and we thought about the kinds of things that we would pack in our space suitcases for the expedition. Some children labelled the items in their suitcase with the initial sound of the item. We filled out tickets for our journey and, with a focus on language related to time, we thought about the date and time of travel and the number of days it might take to get to Mars. This provided the children with good practice at recalling the days of the week and thinking about how time can be measured in years, months, weeks and days.

A further mathematical focus this week was on language related to position. We talked about the scientists at NASA and how they were able to program the Mars rover to travel around on Mars. We pretended that our pencils were Mars rovers, following instructions to move forwards, backwards, up and down on a picture of Mars. During our games lesson, we went on a space adventure to Mars, following positional instructions around the grounds on a mission to find the red planet!

In our daily phonics sessions, we spent time revising the correct way to form the letters m, a, s, d, t, i, n and p. We practised blending these sounds to read and spell simple three-letter words, such as pin, sat, sit, pad and dip.

In their art lessons, each of the children has spent time working with the teacher to create a self-portrait which will form part of a special display in the Pre Prep Hall.

Over the weekend:

This week, each child will bring home a Mars rover pencil topper. Your child might like to practise their pre-handwriting skills by taking their Mars rover pencil on a walk across a piece of paper in straight lines, zig-zags and spirals. They might even be able to teach you some of the letter shapes that we have been learning to write at school!

The International Space Station has been visible over Norfolk this week. Your child might like to look out for it appearing on the west horizon and crossing over to the East on Friday (19:00), Saturday (19:48) and Sunday (19:00).

Reminders

Please could we remind you that jewellery, temporary tattoos and nail varnish should not be worn at school.

Please could we also request that no food is brought into school by the children.

Thank you

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 11th October – 4.30 pm - 7.30pm: Pre Prep settling in parents' evening in the Pre Prep Hall

Online booking system: Go to the Town Close website and visit the Parents' Information Centre on the left. Click on the parents' booking system. This will prompt you to enter your email address and password. If you have not used the system before the password is: **townclose**. If you have used the system for after school care, please use the password you have chosen. When you have logged in click the parents' evening button at the top of the screen.

Thursday 11th October – Thursday 18th October: Pre Prep Science Week

Tuesday 16th October – 9.00am - 3.00 pm: Reception trip to High Lodge, Thetford

Tuesday 16th October – 4.00pm - 5.00pm: Norfolk Children's Book Centre book sale in the library

Friday 19th October – 2.00pm - 3.00pm: Grandparents' afternoon in the Read Hall – further details to follow

Monday 12th November: Fluenz vaccinations for Reception, Year 1 and 2 children

Friday 23rd November – 9.45 - 11.45 am: Reception trip to Norwich Playhouse to see 'The Snail and the Whale'

Thursday 6th December – 9.00am - 9.45am: Reception Christmas Production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

With our best wishes from Mrs Alexandre, Miss Knightly, Mrs Laing and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries